

### REMARKS

The Office Action of October 6, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-15, and 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 17 have been allowed. Claim 20 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action further notices that Claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 20 has been rewritten as suggested by the Office Action.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the instant rejections and objections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.


It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: December 29, 2003

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher B. Roth  
Registration No. 49,007

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.  
1001 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597  
(202) 824-3000

CBR/bao  
671991-1